

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A supply unit for accommodating medical instruments, the supply unit comprising:
a height-adjustable middle part with side cheeks for engaging a middle part of a medical
instrument with lateral guide surfaces which are complementary to the side cheeks;

5 pins arranged at the middle part of the supply unit and projecting upwardly;

a power supply with a plug-type connection;

a data transmission facility with a plug-type connection;

a pneumatic supply with a plug-type connection;

end position sensors provided at the middle part of the supply unit, said end position
10 sensors sending a corresponding signal to an evaluating and control unit when the height-
adjustable middle part of the supply unit has been moved upward to the extent that said pins are
completely accommodated by complementary and downwardly open pin mounts at the middle
part of the medical instrument so that said plug-type connection for said power supply, said plug-
type connection for said data transmission facility, and said plug-type connection for said
15 pneumatic supply are released by the evaluating and control unit.

2. A supply unit for accommodating medical instruments in accordance with claim 1,
wherein the pneumatic supply provides for the transfer of medical gases as well as the generation
of a vacuum.

3. A supply unit in accordance with claim 1, wherein said end position sensors comprise

photoelectric cells.

4. A supply unit in accordance with claim 1, wherein said plug-type connection for said power supply includes power supply connection jacks with flaps as splash proofing for said power supply connection jacks, said connection for said data transmission facility includes
5 transmission connection jacks with flaps as splash proofing for said transmission connection jacks, and said connection for said pneumatic supply includes pneumatic supply connection jacks with flaps as splash proofing for said pneumatic supply connection jacks.

5. A supply unit in accordance with claim 1, wherein the supply unit is ceiling-mounted.

6. A medical instrument supply unit and medical instrument combination comprising:
10 a medical instrument with a middle part with lateral guide surfaces and with pins;
a supply unit with a height-adjustable middle part with side surfaces for engaging the medical instrument middle part of a medical instrument, the side surfaces being complementary to the lateral guide surfaces of the medical instrument and with pins arranged at the middle part of the supply unit projecting upwardly, a power supply with a power plug connection with pins
15 and pin mounts, a data transmission plug connection with pins and pin mounts, a pneumatic supply with a pneumatic plug connection with pins and pin mounts and end position sensors provided at the middle part of the supply unit, said end position sensors sending a corresponding signal to an evaluating and control unit when the height-adjustable middle part of the supply unit has been moved upward to the extent that said pins are completely accommodated by said pin

mounts so that said connection for said power supply, said connection for said data transmission and said connection for said pneumatic supply are in an active state.

7. A combination in accordance with claim 6, wherein the pneumatic supply provides for the transfer of medical gases as well as the generation of a vacuum.

5 8. A combination in accordance with claim 6, wherein said end position sensors comprise photoelectric cells.

9. A combination in accordance with claim 6, wherein said plug-type connection for said power supply includes power supply connection jacks with flaps as splash proofing for said power supply connection jacks, said connection for said data transmission facility includes
10 transmission connection jacks with flaps as splash proofing for said transmission connection jacks, and said connection for said pneumatic supply includes pneumatic supply connection jacks with flaps as splash proofing for said pneumatic supply connection jacks.

10. A combination in accordance with claim 6, wherein the supply unit is ceiling-mounted.